

**MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
March 19, 2021**

Consistent with guidance issued by Governor Baker on March 12, 2020 suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law due to Covid-19, this meeting was held remotely using Zoom technology, Meeting ID 953 8478 9299.

At 4:15 PM Chair Robert Springett called the meeting to order with members John Jeffries and Robyn Hunter present. Also in attendance were Katelyn O' Brien, Assistant Town Administrator, and Mona DiSciullo, Administrative Assistant. Town Administrator Chris Dwelley was not present.

ATTENDEES: Gordon Kinder, Rob Andrews, Warrant Committee; Justine Kent-Uritam, Water Study Committee

PRESS: None present.

Citizens' Comments

There are no citizens' comments.

I.1 Capital Stabilization Fund Discussion and Potential Vote

On March 15, 2021, the Warrant Committee held its public Open Hearing for the purpose of reviewing the Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles and engaging in a question and answer session with residents. Mr. Springett commented on two specific considerations realized from the Hearing. The first is that residents would very much appreciate a non-controversial Annual Town Meeting conducted as expeditiously as possible, and the other is that the Board may be doing itself a disservice by providing piecemeal information to residents about what work is being undertaken rather than providing a strategic overview. The Selectmen offered that they and Town staff are working on putting together an overall strategy that addresses and connects the different pieces involved in Dover's financials including reforming the Town's financial practices, improved and enhanced budget-related items including trend analysis, budget to expense comparisons, and analysis of revenue, revenue sources and turn-backs. Each of the Selectmen provided some background and commentary on the work the Board has taken over the years regarding Free Cash and the budget and discussed the creation of capital stabilization accounts and their purposes, options to stabilize the tax rate, using Free Cash to offer rebates to residents and the ramifications of doing so, and the guidance and

presentations offered on these issues over the years. Mr. Kinder and Mr. Andrews pointed out that perhaps the concept of stabilization funds is not viewed as controversial but the amount to be put into the funds might be. The Board will take that into consideration, and Mr. Springett stressed the importance of the Board of Selectmen and the Warrant Committee moving forward and working together to conduct an efficient and effective Annual Town Meeting and to create a strategy and presentation that will help residents understand Free Cash, capital stabilization funds and their purpose, the complexity of the budget and the reasons behind actions taken.

Mr. Springett moved to approve Town Meeting Warrant Article 10 - Create and Appropriate for a Capital Stabilization Fund, as amended, and the amendment will be the amount from Free Cash used to seed that account, reduced from \$2.5 million to \$600,000, seconded by Mr. Jeffries; it was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

I.2 Discussion re Free Cash Amount to Stabilize Tax Rate

It is the recommendation of the Board to move \$2.5 million out of Free Cash, and from that amount \$1.7 million will be used for tax stabilization, \$700,000 will be used to replace the Town House roof, and \$100,000 will be used for a water study. The Warrant Committee will take this under advisement and present its recommendation to the Selectmen at an upcoming meeting.

Adjournment

At 5:27 PM Mr. Springett moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Jeffries; it was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

DOVER BOARD OF SELECTMEN

John D. Jeffries, Clerk